

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:**

[0073] In exhaust gas purifying apparatus and method for an internal combustion engine, an abnormality determination of an NO<sub>x</sub> (Nitrogen Oxides) removing catalyst is executed on the basis of output values of both of a first exhaust gas atmosphere detecting section and a second exhaust gas atmosphere detecting section (for example, oxygen concentration sensors interposed in an exhaust passage of the engine between inlet and outlet portions of the NO<sub>x</sub> removing catalyst) from a time at which an output value of the first exhaust gas atmosphere detecting section is varied to a first predetermined value to a time at which the output value of the second exhaust gas atmosphere detecting section is reached to a second predetermined value when an exhaust gas atmosphere varying section (control unit) increases the ratio of a reducing agent in the exhaust gas.

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